

# RACKET SQUAD

## IN ACTION



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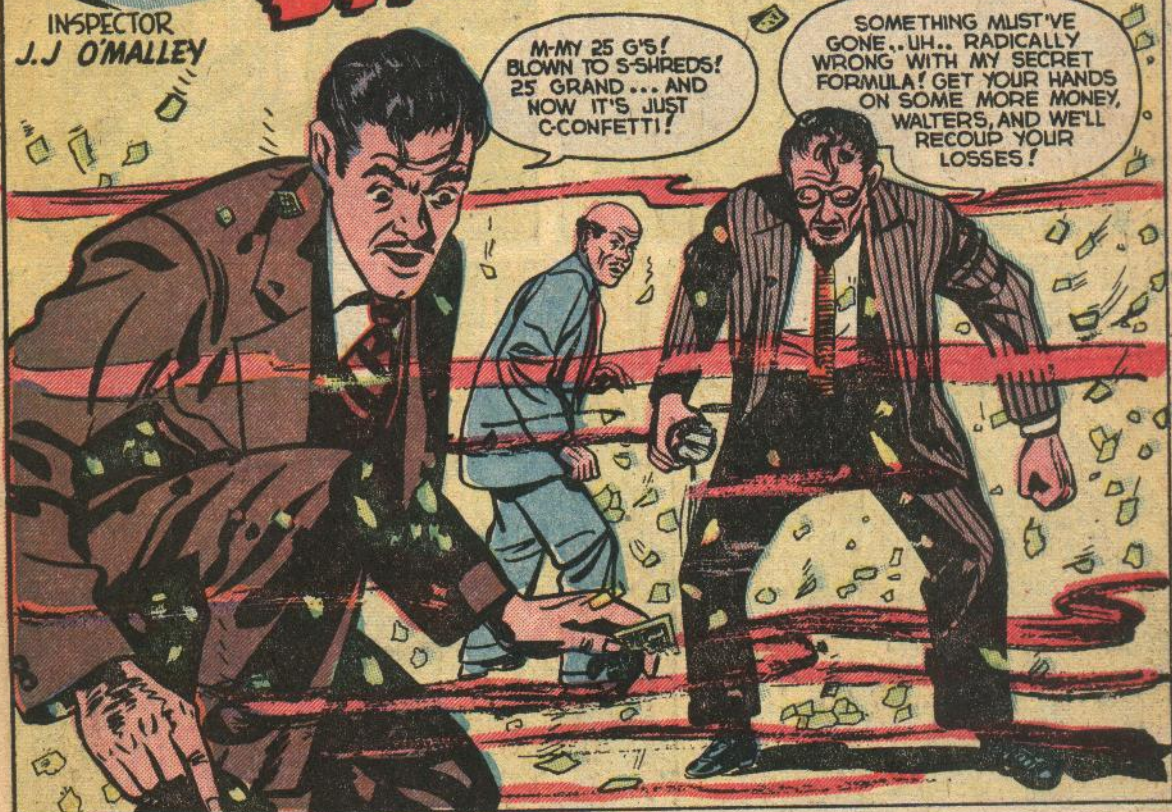
# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



INSPECTOR  
J.J. O'MALLEY

IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT A NOTORIOUS CONFIDENCE MAN IS HOODWINKED SO EXPERTLY BY A COUPLE OF SMALL-TIME SWINDLERS THAT HE VIOLATES THE FIRST COMMANDMENT OF THE UNDERWORLD AND SCREAMS "GYP" TO THE POLICE. YET THAT IS PRECISELY HOW WE CAME TO HEAR OF THE INGENUOUS COUNTERFEITING SCHEME KNOWN AS THE...

## EASY MONEY RACKET



M-MY 25 G'S!  
BLOWN TO S-SHREDS!  
25 GRAND... AND  
NOW IT'S JUST  
C-CONFETTI!

SOMETHING MUST'VE  
GONE...UH... RADICALLY  
WRONG WITH MY SECRET  
FORMULA! GET YOUR HANDS  
ON SOME MORE MONEY,  
WALTERS, AND WE'LL  
RECOUP YOUR  
LOSSES!

**A**RRRESTING A GANGLAND BIGGY LIKE BINGO WALTERS... AND KNOWING THAT YOU CAN MAKE THE RAP STICK... IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A COP THINK HIS JOB REALLY IS USEFUL TO SOCIETY...

YOU GOT ME PINNED TO THE WALL THIS TIME, O'MALLEY. IF I DO A LITTLE YODELING ABOUT A RACKET EVEN YOU NEVER HEARD OF... WHAT DOES IT NET ME?

I DON'T MAKE PROMISES, BINGO. HELP US... AND I'LL REMIND THE COURT OF YOUR COOPERATION WHEN IT'S SENTENCING YOU!



'BOUT ALL I CAN HOPE FOR, I GUESS IS LENIENCY FOR TURNING STATE'S EVIDENCE. WELL, I GOT A PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST THOSE WISE GUYS, ANYWAY, 'CAUSE THEY GAVE ME A SKIN-NING! SO HERE GOES...





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**A**S I LISTENED TO BINGO WALTERS' STORY OF THE 'EASY MONEY RACKET,' HIS ANGRY WORDS BROUGHT THE CHARACTERS VIVIDLY TO LIFE. IT HAD ALL STARTED ONE MONTH AGO...





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



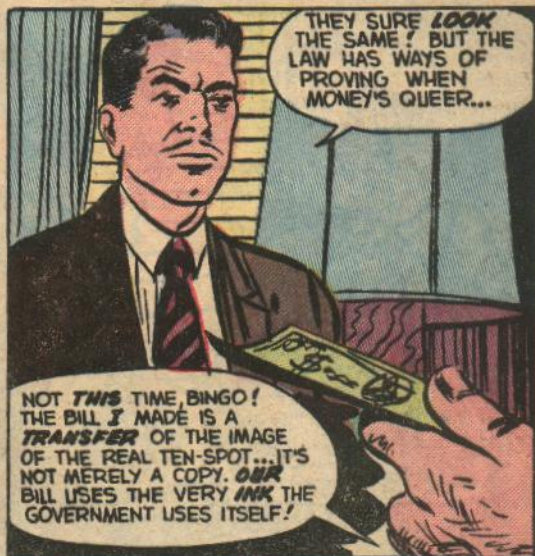
I PLACE THIS TEN DOLLAR BILL... WHICH YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE EXAMINED AND FOUND SATISFACTORY, BINGO... ON TOP OF A SPECIALLY TREATED SHEET OF BLANK PAPER.



NOW I APPLY A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF HEAT TO THE PACKET, IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE SECRET FLUID WITH WHICH THE BLANK SHEET OF PAPER WAS TREATED TO OPERATE AT ITS MAXIMUM...

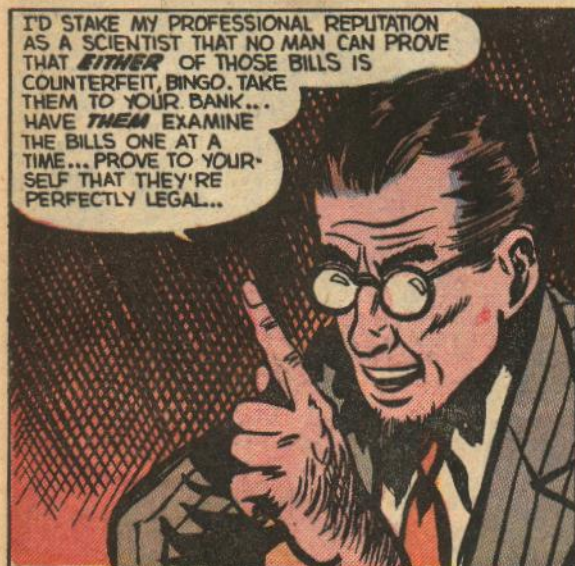


THEN I UNWRAP OUR LITTLE PACKET. INSTEAD OF A BILL AND A BLANK PAPER... WE NOW HAVE TWO IDENTICAL TEN SPOTS! LOOK THEM OVER, SIR... SEE IF YOU CAN TELL WHICH IS FAKE...



THEY SURE LOOK THE SAME! BUT THE LAW HAS WAYS OF PROVING WHEN MONEY'S QUEER...

NOT *THIS* TIME, BINGO! THE BILL I MADE IS A *TRANSFER* OF THE IMAGE OF THE REAL TEN-SPOT... IT'S NOT MERELY A COPY. *OUR* BILL USES THE VERY INK THE GOVERNMENT USES ITSELF!



I'D STAKE MY PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION AS A SCIENTIST THAT NO MAN CAN PROVE THAT *EITHER* OF THOSE BILLS IS COUNTERFEIT, BINGO. TAKE THEM TO YOUR BANK... HAVE *THEM* EXAMINE THE BILLS ONE AT A TIME... PROVE TO YOURSELF THAT THEY'RE PERFECTLY LEGAL...



IF YOU'RE SATISFIED, BINGO... BRING A BATCH OF THE LARGEST BILLS YOU CAN GET FROM THE BANK TOMORROW. I HAVE ONLY ENOUGH FLUID FOR ONE MORE TRANSFER AT THIS TIME... IT'LL TAKE ME WEEKS TO BREW ANOTHER BATCH OF LIQUID!



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



**M**Y ASSISTANT, STEVE PRIOR, MADE CONTACT WITH THE SWINDLERS A FEW DAYS LATER. THE INITIAL BUILD-UP WAS THE SAME AS IN THE CASE OF BINGO WALTERS. THEN...



**A**N HOUR BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN STEVE AND THE SWINDLERS, WE MOVED INTO THE ADJOINING ROOM... WHICH I HAD ARRANGED FOR SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE...



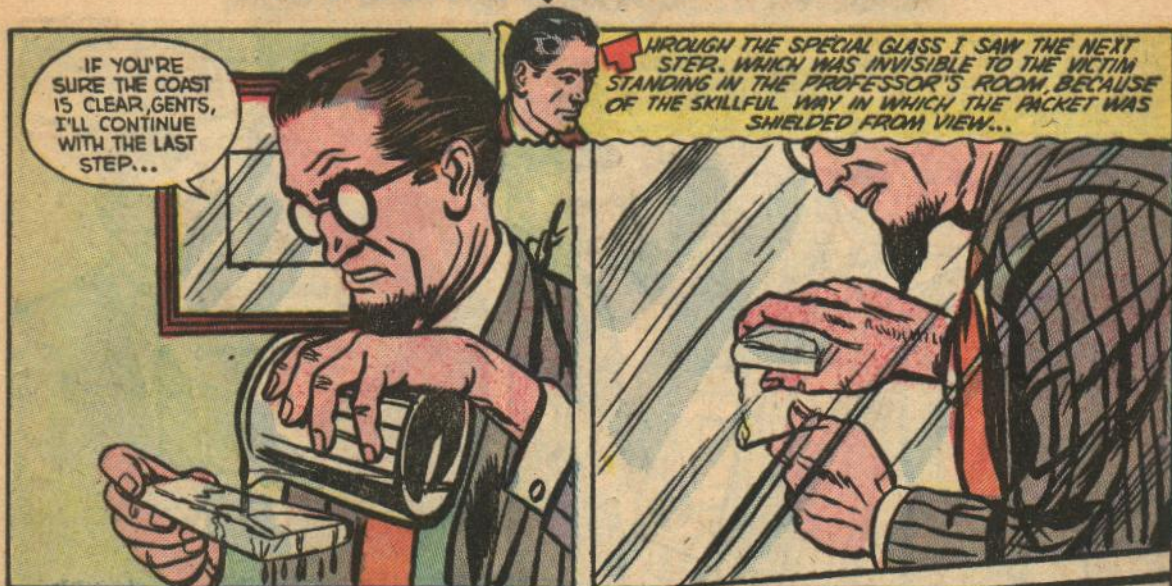


# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**T**HIS IS THE STORY OF AN INGENUOUS ACTOR NAMED KENNETH KROGER. FOR MANY MONTHS, IN AN UPSTATE COUNTY, HE PLAYED TO AN AUDIENCE OF UNSUSPECTING NEW HOMEOWNERS... AND IN HIS ROLE AS COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR, WAS ALWAYS...

## CALM COOL AND COLLECTED

BEAUTIFUL PLACE YOU'VE BOUGHT, SIR. TAXES, THOUGH, ARE GONNA BE MIGHTY HIGH... UNLESS WE CAN MAKE A PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT!

I-I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, MR. KROGER. AND I HAVE THE MONEY • RIGHT HERE, AS YOU SUGGESTED! I-IN CASH!

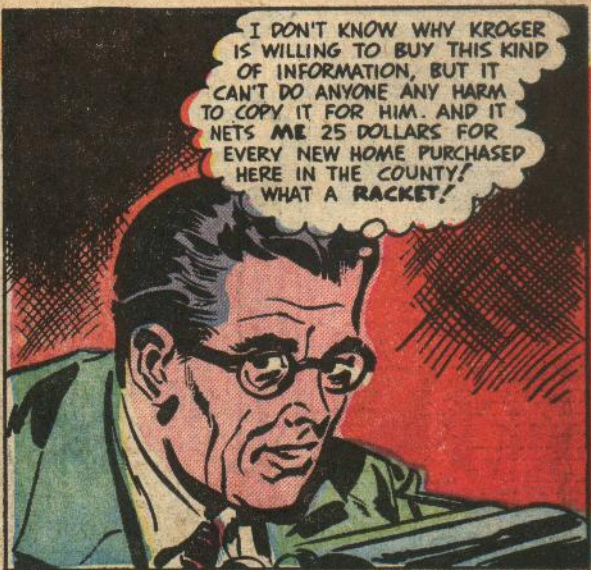


**U**N THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, AN ASSISTANT MAKES A DISCOVERY THAT BRINGS A SMILE TO HIS FACE...

A NEW HOME JUST PURCHASED UP ON 'WILSON ROAD.' I'LL MAKE A COPY OF THIS AS SOON AS EVERYONE LEAVES... MR. KROGER'LL WANT TO SEE IT IMMEDIATELY!



I DON'T KNOW WHY KROGER IS WILLING TO BUY THIS KIND OF INFORMATION, BUT IT CAN'T DO ANYONE ANY HARM TO COPY IT FOR HIM. AND IT NETS ME 25 DOLLARS FOR EVERY NEW HOME PURCHASED HERE IN THE COUNTY! WHAT A RACKET!





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**T**HE TRUE EXTENT OF THE RACKET WAS KNOWN ONLY TO KENNETH KROGER AND HIS ACCOMPLICE, MIKE STEBBINS. THE NEXT DAY, THEY DROVE OVER TO WILSON ROAD...

THERE'S THE PLACE DESCRIBED IN THE DEED...

LEAVE 'EM THEIR EYE-TEETH, KEN! GOOD LUCK!

PAID 5,000 IN CASH... BANKS AT THE FIRST NATIONAL... WORKS OVER IN CARVER CITY AS PLANT FOREMAN. OUGHTTA BE GOOD FOR A NICE HAUL, SINCE HE DOESN'T SEEM TO KNOW ANYONE HERE IN TOWN!

H-HELLO. WHAT CAN I...?

MRS. MARVIN? GREETINGS FROM THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. NAME'S KING... ROGER KING. THOUGHT I'D WISH YOU WELCOME TO ELM CITY. MAN OF THE HOUSE ABOUT?

I'M MR. MARVIN. MY WIFE TELLS ME...

DELIGHTED, SIR. I'M COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR AND COLLECTOR... SOON AS I HEARD YOU FOLKS WERE SET IN YOUR NEW HOUSE I THOUGHT I'D RUN BY. YOUR...ER... TAX STATEMENT... SHOULDA BEEN RECEIVED WITH YOUR DEED. COULD I SEE IT FOR A MOMENT?

I UNDERSTAND I HAVE 6 MONTHS IN WHICH TO PAY THOSE REAL ESTATE TAXES, MR. KING. I HOPE YOU ARE NOT GOING TO RAISE THEM...

SIX MONTHS IS RIGHT, MR. MARVIN. UNLESS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING THE SAME KIND OF ARRANGEMENT I OFFER TO ALL NEW HOME PURCHASERS... KNOWING THAT THEY'RE ANXIOUS TO SAVE DOUGH!

I CAN LOWER THIS TAX ASSESSMENT, IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMEDIATE CASH PAYMENT. FOR 800 DOLLARS... CASH, TOMORROW AT THIS TIME... THE COUNTY'LL BE GLAD TO SETTLE YOUR ACCOUNT. INTERESTED? G-GOOD...!



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



GOT HIS COUNTY TAX ASSESSMENT CLEAN AS A WHISTLE, I SEE! GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, KEN...

NAME'S KING ON THIS CASE, MIKE! HEH HEH! NOW WE SHOOT BACK TO TOWN... AND PREPARE FOR TOMORROW...



YOU GOT THE HANDWRITING OF THE ORIGINAL COPIED ALMOST EXACTLY...

... AND THE TAX FORM ITSELF, IS A CLOSE ENOUGH DUPLICATE SO THE GUY'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL IT'S A PHONEY. MR. MARVIN IS ABOUT TO SAVE 200 DOLLARS IN REAL ESTATE TAX... AND GET SWINDLED AT THE SAME TIME!

THE NEXT MORNING, KENNETH KROGER GAVE A GOOD PERFORMANCE...

THANKS A LOT, MR. KING. IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...

JUST DON'T MENTION THE EPISODE TO ANYONE. SOME SOREHEADS IN TOWN DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF MY REDUCING TAXES ON NEWCOMERS LIKE YOURSELF. TAKE CARE OF THAT RECEIPT... AND MUCH OBLIGED FOR THIS MONEY!

... AND HIS ENCORE, FOUR DAYS LATER, WAS WELL RECEIVED UP ON WILLOW RIDGE...

HERE'S THE THOUSAND DOLLARS, MR. ROGERS. IT LEAVES A BIG HOLE IN MY BANK ACCOUNT... BUT IT IS A SAVING OF ALMOST 50 PERCENT!

... AND THE COUNTY APPRECIATES YOUR PAYING SEVERAL MONTHS IN ADVANCE, SIR. RUNNING EXPENSES ARE SO HIGH NOWADAYS...



WHILE HE SOARED TO DRAMATIC HEIGHTS, EARLY THE NEXT WEEK IN THE EXCLUSIVE WILDWOOD SECTION...

WE'RE SATISFIED, SIR... WITH CASH TO RUN OUR MUNICIPAL OFFICES. AND YOU'VE SAVED YOURSELF...

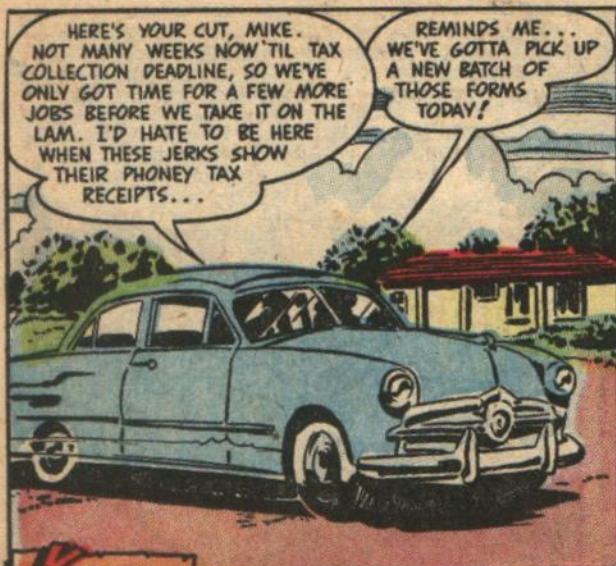
... ENOUGH TO OFFER A SMALL TOKEN OF APPRECIATION, MR. KRING...



NO, SIR! I'VE BEEN A PUBLIC OFFICIAL TOO LONG TO START ACCEPTING GRATUITIES AT MY AGE! AND THERE ARE THOSE, YOU KNOW, WHO WOULD SCREAM DISHONESTY AT THE HINT THAT I'D TAKEN MONEY FOR WHAT IS MERELY MY JOB. THANK YOU, SIR... BUT THE MONEY I COLLECT GOES TO THE COUNTY!



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



**AS** WALTER CANTHORNE, COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR AND FRIEND TO NEWCOMERS, KENNETH KROGER WAS AT HIS BEST THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON...

...**W**HILE HIS FOLLOW-UP PERFORMANCE, THE NEXT DAY, WAS UP TO HIS USUAL HIGH STANDARDS...





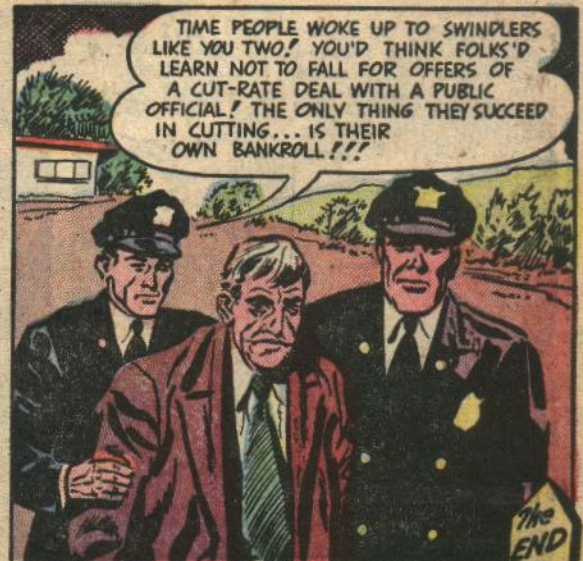
# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



THIS TAX FORM TIPPED ME OFF! THE PLACE I WORK FOR... THE EAGLE PRINT SHOP... HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET THE COUNTY'S OFFICIAL PRINTING FOR YEARS, WITHOUT SUCCESS! CLOSEST WE CAME TO IT WAS TAX RECEIPTS SOME PRIVATE PARTY ORDERED...



I NOTICED A SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE TAX RECEIPT I SET THE TYPE FOR IN THE SHOP... AND THE ONE I GOT IN THE MAIL FROM THE COUNTY CLERK WHEN I BOUGHT THIS HOUSE. BUT I FORGOT ABOUT IT... UNTIL THIS MUG TOOK THE GOOD RECEIPT YESTERDAY, AND GAVE ME THIS ONE! I KNEW IMMEDIATELY IT WASN'T OFFICIAL... BECAUSE IT'S GOT THE UNION NUMBER OF MY SHOP! SEE?





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**A**N HONEST  
FACE...AND  
A SMOOTH BIT  
OF FAST-TALKING  
ABOUT A  
"FREE" OFFER  
...MAY BE  
ONLY THE BAIT  
FOR...

## The RUG CLEAN-UP



...AND TO INTRODUCE OUR  
UNIQUE SERVICE, THE **CHEMICAL  
RUG CLEANING COMPANY** HAS  
ASKED ME TO SELECT THE  
NICEST HOUSE IN EACH  
NEIGHBORHOOD...

THAT'S WHY YOU'VE  
PICKED **MINE**? HOW  
FLATTERING! WON'T  
YOU COME IN, MR...?



**PURCELL** IS MY NAME, MA'M... HERE'S  
MY CARD. TO PROVE TO YOU THAT OUR RUG  
CLEANING SERVICE IS FAST, INEXPENSIVE AND  
RELIABLE, I'VE BEEN ASKED TO MAKE WHAT  
WE CONSIDER AN UNUSUAL FREE OFFER!

WE WILL CLEAN ONE OF YOUR RUGS FREE  
OF CHARGE. IF YOU FIND OUR WORK  
SATISFACTORY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
YOUR MENTIONING THE FACT TO FRIENDS.  
THEN, IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR HELP, WE  
WILL BE HAPPY TO CLEAN ONE ADDITIONAL  
RUG FREE...  
FOR EACH  
CUSTOMER YOU  
BRING IN ON THE  
BASIS OF YOUR  
RECOMMENDATION!



AS A SAMPLE OF OUR  
WORK, LET ME TAKE AN  
INEXPENSIVE ONE... LIKE  
THAT SCATTER RUG.  
HOW MUCH WOULD YOU  
ESTIMATE THE RUG  
IS WORTH?

I... I DON'T  
REALLY KNOW  
...PROBABLY  
ABOUT TEN  
DOLLARS.



LET ME GIVE YOU **FIFTEEN** DOLLARS FOR IT, AS AN  
INDICATION OF THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN OUR  
WORK. UNLESS YOU ARE  
COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH  
OUR CHEMICAL WASHING JOB,  
YOU KEEP THE MONEY AS  
WELL AS THE RUG!

T-THAT  
CERTAINLY SEEMS  
FAIR ENOUGH...



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



I'LL RETURN WITH IT WEDNESDAY, MRS. BENSON. I'M SURE WE'LL FIND THIS ARRANGEMENT MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY... AND **PROFITABLE!**

I'LL LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, MR. PURCELL.



WEDNESDAY, AS HE HAD PROMISED, THE YOUNG MAN RETURNED...

TELL ME THE TRUTH... HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A COMPARABLE JOB OF CLEANING, AT THE PRICE SCALE I ASKED YOU TO MENTION TO YOUR FRIENDS?

IT IS GOOD! I CERTAINLY THINK YOU'VE WARRANTED MY RETURNING YOUR MONEY...



YOUR OFFER WAS FAIR... AND SINCE I AM SATISFIED WITH YOUR WORK, HERE'S YOUR...

HA HA! THE MONEY IS YOURS TO KEEP, MRS. BENSON, AS A **BONUS**, WE MIGHT CALL IT, FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN HELPING US SPREAD WORD OF OUR SERVICE. I'LL BE BACK NEXT WEDNESDAY, TO PICK UP YOUR OTHER RUGS... AND TO FIND OUT HOW SUCCESSFUL YOU'VE BEEN IN SOLICITING OTHER BUSINESS!



**M**R. PURCELL LEFT, AND HIS UNWARY "CUSTOMER" WENT TO WORK...

...AND HE'LL PICK UP YOUR RUGS ON WEDNESDAY, SERENA. HIS FIRM MAKES PICK-UPS ONLY ONE DAY A MONTH IN EACH NEIGHBORHOOD... THAT'S WHY THEY'RE ABLE TO DO THE WORK SO CHEAPLY! **QUANTITY** MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE! YOU CALL GLENDA AND ALICE... I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH MARGIE AND THAT MRS. DAVIS ON THE CORNER...



**A**S GOOD AS HIS WORD, MR. PURCELL RETURNED ON THE APPOINTED DAY...

IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO VOLUNTEER TO PICK UP MY RUGS EVEN BEFORE YOU KNOW HOW MANY CUSTOMERS I'VE GOTTEN FOR YOU! NOW I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU...



HERE'S A LIST OF NINE WOMEN WHO ARE EXPECTING YOU THIS MORNING, MR. PURCELL! I HOPE YOU AREN'T DISAPPOINTED...

I KNEW I **WOULDN'T** BE, MRS. BENSON... THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO RENT ADDITIONAL TRUCKS TO TAKE CARE OF THE INCREASED VOLUME. AS YOU CAN SEE, THE TRUCK DOESN'T EVEN HAVE OUR FIRM NAME ON IT!



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



NINE HOUSES, PLUS HER OWN! NOT A BAD HAUL FOR A SINGLE DAY, EH? HERE'S THE FIRST ONE...THE SHINGLE HOUSE ON THE LEFT...

I HOPE WE CAN GET A COUPLE LIKE THAT FANCY ORIENTAL THE BENSON DAME GAVE US!



MR. PURCELL? I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU ... COME RIGHT IN! THE RUGS ARE ALL ROLLED AND READY TO CARRY OUT.

MIKE... FRED! WILL YOU SEE TO MRS. GORDON'S RUGS? AND HANDLE THEM WITH CARE, PLEASE!



IT'S WONDERFULLY CONVENIENT HAVING YOU PICK THE RUGS UP AND DELIVER THEM, AT NO EXTRA COST...

I'VE HEARD OF THE CHEMICAL RUG CLEANING COMPANY, OF COURSE SO A RECEIPT WON'T REALLY BE NECESSARY, MR. PURCELL. OF COURSE, IF YOU INSIST...

MRS. BENSON WAS SO DELIGHTED WITH THE TRIAL WORK YOU DID FOR HER...

**A** WEEK WENT BY. THE SCHEDULED DAY OF DELIVERY PASSED...

T- THEY HAVE NO SALESMAN ANSWERING HIS DESCRIPTION... NO ONE NAMED PURCELL EVER WORKED FOR THE CHEMICAL RUG CLEANING COMPANY!

THE RECEIPTS... THE STORY ABOUT WHY THE TRUCK HAD NO NAME ON IT... A SWINDLE!

YOU GOT US INTO THIS TROUBLE, ANNA BENSON! MY PRICELESS SAROUK RUG... **GONE!**

...THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED IF YOU'D ONLY CHECKED HIS CREDENTIALS...

D-DON'T SCREAM AT ME! YOU ALL AGREED HE LOOKED HONEST... AND THE OFFER HE MADE WAS SO INEXPENSIVE...



WHICH GOES TO PROVE, IN THIS CASE, THAT AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION MIGHT HAVE SAVED SEVERAL HUNDRED POUNDS OF EXPENSIVE RUGS!

**THE END**



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**S**OME RACKET'S ENSNARE INTEREST... AND MONEY... BECAUSE THE SWINDLE IS...

**SMOOTH as SILK**



COLORS ARE BLACK, RED, GREEN, WHITE AND ORANGE. ORDER NOW... FIRST COME... FIRST SERVED. SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO...

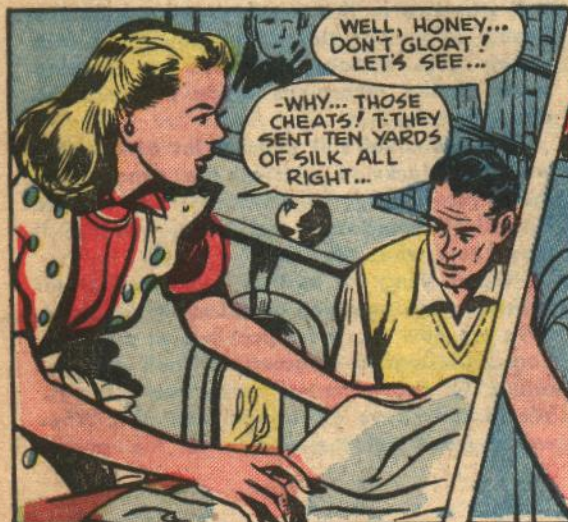


**T**HE ORDER WAS HURRIEDLY MAILED, AND SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

THE PACKAGE... IT MUST BE THE TEN YARDS OF SILK I ORDERED! I-I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE OUR WONDERFUL BARGAIN...



...I REMEMBER NOW... THEIR AD DIDN'T SPECIFY THE WIDTH OF THE SILK. FOR OUR MONEY, ALL WE GOT IS A SPOOL OF SILK THREAD!



The End





# THE YOGI FROM CHINCHON

Word had gone out in the underworld that Ludwig Schulang wanted to see some of the money boys. The total amount needed would be two hundred thousand dollars and he wanted only four to make up that amount. More than fifty men expressed their willingness to lend their money to any racket devised by that criminal creative mind possessed by the country's leading swindler. So early on a Saturday morning, four ordinary looking citizens waited with rod and reel at Monroe's fishing pier.

Three minutes later the "Lady Luck" was tied up at the pier and the four men scampered aboard. A middle aged pleasant looking man with thinning hair greeted them.

The boat headed for mid channel and then the "Lady Luck" dropped anchor. Here the men would be alone and they could discuss business without fear of a wire tap or a hidden tape recorder.

"What's up?" asked impatient Ike Howell. "Bet it must be something big this time."

"I not only want your cold cash," replied Ludwig Schulang. "But for this operation I will need your services. I am going to first purchase the famous Bontey Beauty Salon where all the rich and social ladies try to recapture the lost beauty they never had. I will install tape recorders in each booth. Rich women love to gossip. Thus I will pick up important information. Next I will set up a Swami, Yogi Zuri Dugasti, as one who looks into the future. We will get those women to come to the place by phoning them and telling them their secrets."

"And then you will blackmail them," interrupted Slim Sam Shoder. "I don't like blackmail. Count me out. What's original with that idea?"

Ludwig Schulang gave one of those drop dead looks for which he was famous. It was supposed to make you feel ashamed of what you said. And then patiently he continued speaking.

"No blackmail in this idea. Something entirely different. When we get the women the way we want them, they bring their rich

husbands. We'll convince the husbands we can read the future. We don't take a cent. But we will advise the husbands about stock market tips. We give them two good tips. Then we slaughter them on an oil stock deal for millions."

"Millions?" echoed Ben Marsden. "That's what I want. One big killing and then quit the game for good."

"We will make so much money," assured Ludwig Schulang, "that for the rest of our lives we can all enjoy ourselves without ever having to fear the law."

Mrs. Ethel Merimack, of the New England Merimacks was having a permanent. She was in a private booth at the famous Bontey Beauty Salon. And now she was talking to the beautician.

"I always said that Hilda Kavan was in her late sixties. She can't fool people even if she did have her face lifted. And the way she makes a fool out of herself. Running around behind her husband's back. And with whom? A boy in his twenties. Peter Greene, the drummer in Ted Seldin's band. Wonder if she knows her husband has been keeping that chorus girl. Life can be funny. Each cheating the other. Nothing like an old fool. I want you to do a very good job this time. I'm going for a week end to a party at the Hopewell's."

It was two in the morning and the Bontey Beauty Salon was closed. But downstairs in a secret room a tape recorder was playing some of the recordings made that morning and afternoon.

"Bet we could still make a lot of dough if we tried blackmail with all the dynamite in these recordings," commented Impatient Ike Howell. "People talk too much. Wonder if they know what they say."

"Good thing for us that people shoot off their mouths," snapped back Ludwig Schulang. "We are now ready for part two of our plan. Yogi Zuri Dugasti is going to look into the future. Of course he will peep into the past. We already have our appointment list. When we couldn't get the women to the phone,



we left a cleverly worded message to show we knew something."

Mrs. Hilda Kavan was no fool when she didn't let her emotions run away with her. She listened carefully to everything Yogi Zuri Dugasti told her.

"I don't know how you learned all these things," she conceded, "but if your game is blackmail, then let's get right down to business."

There was an evident painful look upon the Yogi's face. He opened a drawer of his desk and handed the woman a package of bills.

"My only ambition in life is to look into the future to help people. If you need money, take this package of hundred dollar bills as a gift."

Mrs. Hilda Kavan became flustered and quickly apologized. She told her husband about the visit and a week later, Mr. Kavan waited his turn in a crowded room. Finally he was ushered into the presence of the Yogi.

"It is wonderful to be here face to face with such a holy man like you, said Mr. Kavan, as he adjusted his hearing aid. "No doubt you studied in the holy city of Chinchon, in western India."

"Spent five years there learning the secrets of the past, present, and future," replied the Yogi.

"And you will pronounce upon me the eternal blessing: Chawm choo-sip-see-yaw tahn-ba."

"Of course," replied the Yogi. "Can I be of help to you?"

"Wonderful. If you could tell me what stocks to buy. I dabble in Wall Street."

"Simpson Machine Star Points Company Stock is selling at five dollars a share and it will go up in a week."

"This all could be a fake to fool me," said Mr. Kavan.

"That is not exactly out of the realm of the impossible," said the Yogi. He then opened a drawer of his desk and handed a package of bills to Mr. Kavan.

"Buy the stock with this money. If there is a profit, you keep it. If there is a loss, it comes from this money."

Two weeks later Ludwig Schulang held a meeting with his associates. Impatient Ike Howell had a question to ask.

"So far up to date we have been doing nothing but shelling out the dough. When do we begin to collect?"

"Maybe the Yogi should teach you some patience," said Ludwig. "You'll have to admit he is good. Nothing but a ham actor out in the sticks until I picked him up." And then he

stopped for dramatic effect. "Tomorrow we tell our suckers to invest everything in Monsilta Moreana Stock. We have given them two good tips. This man Kavan is our biggest fish. Been telling all his friends to follow what we say. And the women all brought their husbands here. Business at that beauty salon is tops and the tape recorders are paying off."

Again Mr. Kavan was seated before the Yogi. The light in the room was dim and Mr. Kavan adjusted his hearing aid.

"I mean to make a million this time," he said. "The two tips you gave me were wonderful. What should I buy this time."

"Monsilta Moreana Stock is selling at ten dollars a share," advised the Yogi. "It will go up to twenty dollars. Shall I give you some money?"

The reply was the one that had been carefully anticipated.

"No. I'll use my own money and see that my friends also buy it."

Thousands of shares of that stock were sold during the next week. Now the boys were in that secret room underneath the beauty salon. There was a big bag on the table and it was full of money of all denominations.

"The time has come to divide the money," said Impatient Ike Howell. "Can't blame me if I got an itch for my share of it. There's a little gal out in Chicago just waiting for me and we're going South."

Ludwig Schulang had carefully made out his plans. He pushed a little button and the room was filled with gas. Up his nostrils were two metallic filters. He kept his lips clenched and watched his partners all collapse to the floor. Then he left the room and started outside when two officers of the law seized him.

"You really didn't think it was going to be so easy," said the familiar voice of Mr. Kavan. "After all, I did work as a Counter Intelligence man during the war so I contacted the Racket Squad and worked with them. Every word your Yogi said into my so called hearing aid was really into a miniature wire recorder. Better start talking when we get you downtown."

It was five in the morning and a nervous Ludwig Schulang looked across at his ex-Yogi in the D.A.'s office.

"Your Yogi betrayed he was a fakir," said Mr. Kavan. "Chinchon happens to be in Korea and not in India. And Chawm choo-sip-see-yaw-tahn-ba is not an Indian blessing. It is Korean and means, please give me cigarettes. One of the boys died in your gas chamber so this time you face a murder charge."



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE SUCCESS OF ANY RACKET IS THE UNWITTING COOPERATION OF THE PROSPECTIVE VICTIM. HERE'S A DRAMATIC GIMMICK WHICH ONE GANG USED TO ENCOURAGE THIS WILLINGNESS TO PLAY THE ROLE OF SUCKER, AND THUS SET THE STAGE OF A COSTLY...

## OPENING NIGHT!

THAT WAS ONE OF THE MOST DELIGHTFUL MUSICAL COMEDIES IVE EVER SEEN, GEORGE! WASN'T IT NICE GETTING THOSE TICKETS THE WAY WE DID...

L-LENORE! WHILE WE WERE AT THE THEATER... OUR PLACE HAS BEEN RANSACKED!

STAN CAMPBELL



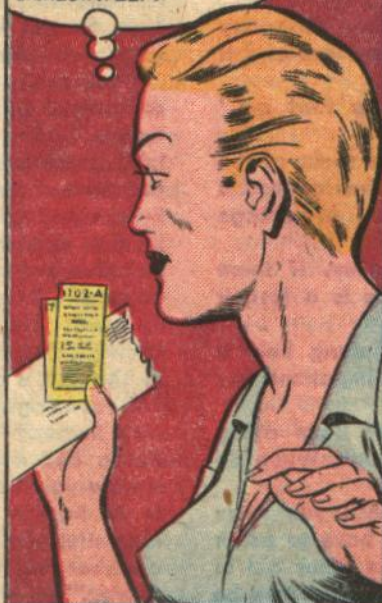
A TYPICAL MIDDLE CLASS HOUSE ON A TYPICAL WEEKDAY MORNING. THE CLEANING'S COMPLETED... THE MAIL DELIVERED...

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS! ALL WE EVER SEEM TO GET ARE BILLS! WONDER WHO THIS ONE IS FROM...?

W-WHY, THIS ISN'T A BILL AT ALL! HOW WONDERFUL... AND SO UNEXPECTED! I'LL CALL GEORGE AT THE OFFICE, IMMEDIATELY!



YES, DEAR... TWO ORCHESTRA SEATS FOR THE OPENING NIGHT OF 'LIGHTS ON'! AND A LITTLE HAND WRITTEN NOTE SAYING THE THEATER MANAGEMENT HOPES WE ENJOY THE SHOW! ISN'T IT PERFECTLY DIVINE?





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LATER, THAT NIGHT...

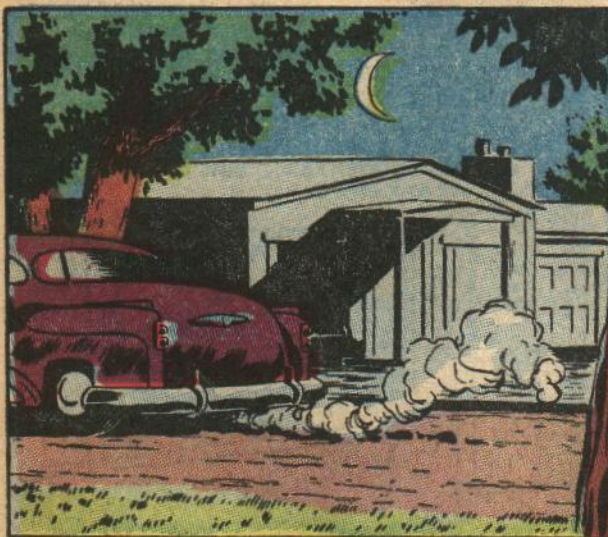
FUNNY... BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE, WITHOUT ANY EXPLANATION AS TO WHY WE GOT THEM... WELL, WHY LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH? I'LL CANCEL MY POKER SESSION FRIDAY NIGHT. WE CAN'T MISS THIS!



THE DAYS PASSED ALL TOO SLOWLY... AND THEN, AT LAST, IT WAS FRIDAY NIGHT...

WE'VE NEVER ATTENDED AN OPENING NIGHT BEFORE! ARE YOU SURE I LOOK ALL RIGHT, GEORGE? MY HAIR ... MY DRESS?

YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, DEAR...



THERE THEY GO...

YEP/ LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER/ THE JERKS/



AND HERE WE GO/ I HOPE THE SAPS ENJOY THE SHOW... 'CAUSE THEY'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE WHEN THEY GET HOME!



NOT A BAD HEIST, EH, BOYS?

GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, SKIP/ YOUR IDEA WAS CERTAINLY A FOOL-PROOF WAY TO EMPTY A HOUSE, SO WE CAN MOVE IN AND OPERATE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE! THEY COULD BUY A LOT OF THEATER TICKETS WITH WHAT WE'RE STEALING FROM'EM!





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THOSE TICKETS SET US BACK TWENTY BUCKS APIECE... AND WE'VE GOT A GRAND IN LOOT! A SUCCESSFUL OPENING NIGHT, I'D SAY! THIS SHOW'LL BE RUNNING AFTER "LIGHTS ON" IS JUST A MEMORY...



A FEW MINUTES BEFORE MIDNIGHT...

I JUST LOVED LILL MAUREEN TONIGHT, GEORGE! WE'LL BE THE ENVY OF THE WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE OF THOSE TICKETS...



W-WE'LL BE THE TALK OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD, ANYWAY! WHILE WE WERE GONE SOMEBODY BROKE IN AND ROBBED US!



...YES, INSPECTOR... SOMETIME BETWEEN SEVEN AND MIDNIGHT! WE WERE AT THE THEATER... FUNNY, NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, WHY DID WE GET THOSE TICKETS...?



TWO DAYS LATER, IN A SUITE OF A PLUSH DOWN-TOWN HOTEL...

CIRCULATE AROUND AND SEE IF YOU CAN PICK UP A COUPLE OF DUCATS FOR "LAUGH, CLOWN, LAUGH," THAT OPENS ON THE FIFTEENTH. YOU CAN FIND A SCALPER WHO'S STILL GOT A FEW... BUY 'EM AT ANY PRICE.



JUST TO CROSS UP JOHN LAW, WE'LL GO OVER AND HIT BEDFORD STREET ACROSS TOWN THIS TIME! GET YOUR SURVEY STUFF READY, PAUL.

I'LL CASE THE STREET WITHIN AN INCH OF ITS LIFE. SKIP!

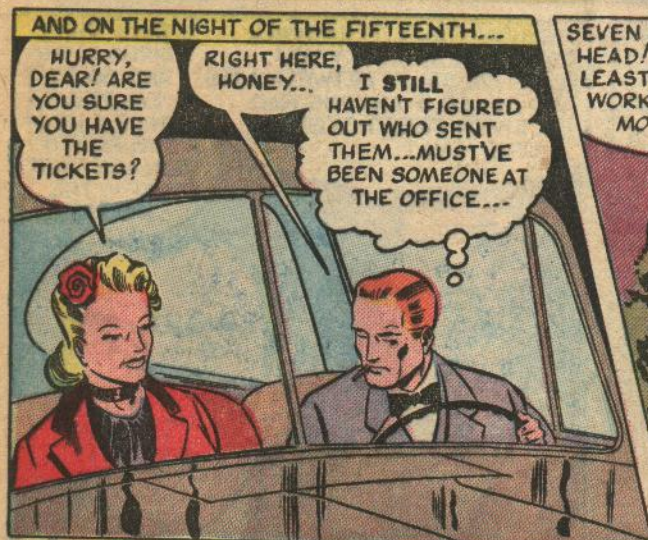


LATER THAT AFTERNOON, A SOFT SPOKEN YOUNG MAN QUESTIONS A HOUSE WIFE ON THE MAGAZINE READING HABITS OF HER FAMILY... NO SERVANTS... GUESTS... PETS? THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MA'M, YOU'VE MADE MY JOB A LOT EASIER...





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

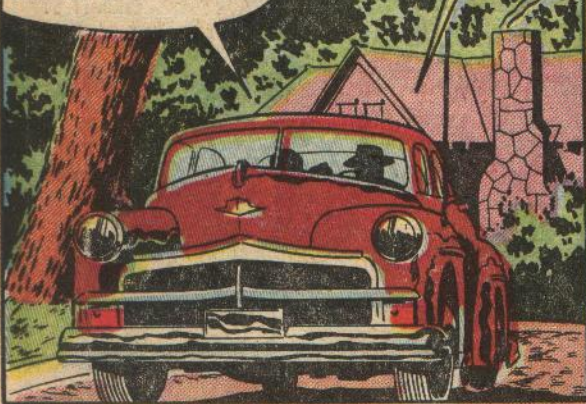




# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

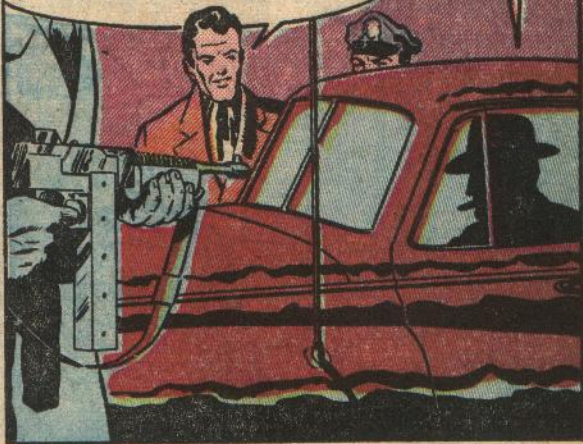
STOP PLAYING WITH THE STARTER AND GET THIS HEAP MOVIN'! I DON'T WANT TO MEET THOSE DOPES COMING HOME FROM THE THEATER!

SOMETHING'S ON THE FRITZ! IT WON'T START...



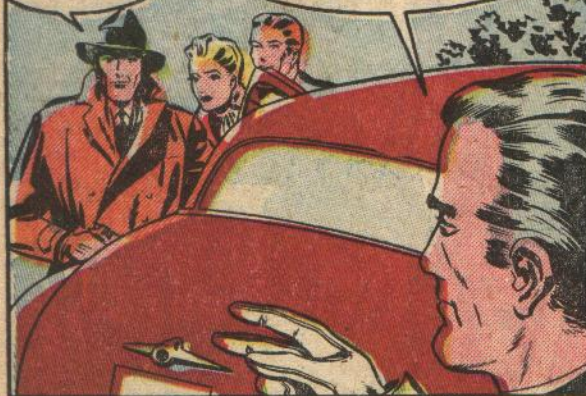
... DOESN'T EVEN SPUTTER, EH? MAYBE BECAUSE I PULLED OUT YOUR SPARK PLUG WIRES WHILE YOU WERE OCCUPIED INSIDE!

COPS/ALL AROUND THE CAR!



THEY'VE GOT TWO VALISES FULL OF STUFF IN HERE, INSPECTOR!

DRAW IT OUT, WILL YOU, STEVE? OH...MR. AND MRS. FLINT... WOULD YOU MIND STEPPING OVER THERE AND IDENTIFYING THOSE ARTICLES...?



THOSE ARE OUR THINGS, ALL RIGHT! WE'RE LUCKY YOU CAME ON STAGE BETWEEN ACTS AND ASKED IF ANYONE HAD RECEIVED FREE TICKETS IN THE MAIL!

TAKE THESE BIRDS DOWN AND BOOK 'EM, STEVE, WHILE I HELP THE FLINTS REPLACE THIS STUFF IN THE HOUSE!



...AND THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY TO BREAK THIS CASE... TO ATTEND ALL OPENING NIGHTS AND DETERMINE WHO HAD RECEIVED FREE TICKETS!

AND I ... SNIFF... THOUGHT THAT YOU REMEMBERED OUR ANNIVERSARY, MARTIN! T-THOSE TICKETS...WEREN'T FROM YOU AT ALL!



TWO MORALS TO THIS STORY... BEWARE OF THE STRANGER WHO IS ANXIOUS TO DO YOU FAVORS! HE MAY ONLY BE INTERESTED IN PUTTING YOU OFF YOUR GUARD! NUMBER TWO... IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO REMEMBER THOSE ANNIVERSARIES, MEN...



THE  
END



# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**W**HEN THE CARD TABLE IS LOADED WITH BIG BETS, THE CROOKED GAMBLER BRIGHTENS UP AND USES.

## The SHINER!

TAKE IT FROM ME... SIDNEY RADNER OF HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS... GAMBLERS NEVER GAMBLE! IN TOURING THE COUNTRY FROM COAST-TO-COAST, EXPOSING THE METHODS OF "GYPS" OPERATORS, I HAVE DEMONSTRATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN THAT PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS DO NOT BELIEVE IN GIVING A SUCKER AN EVEN BREAK!

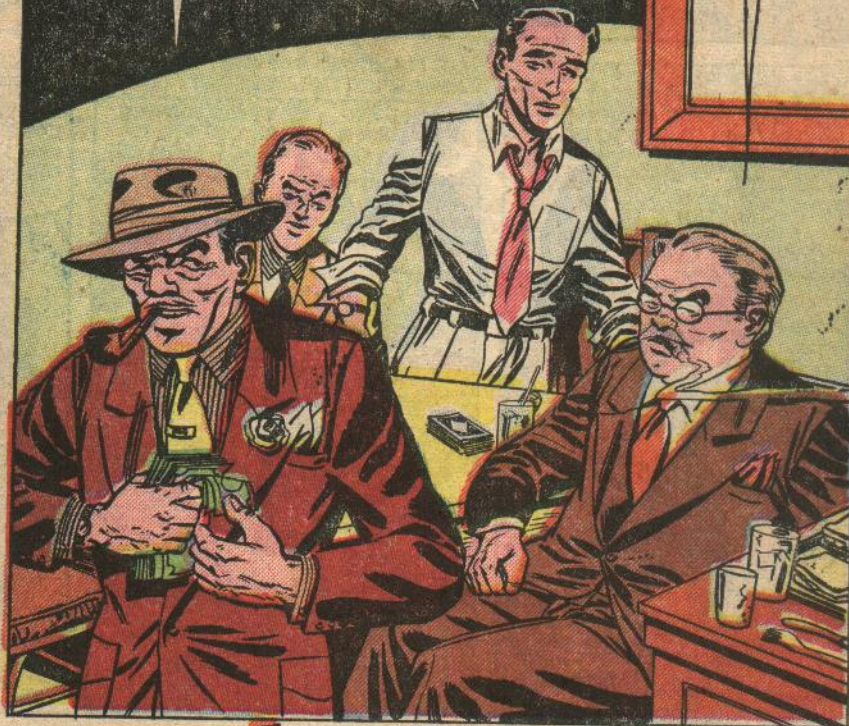
THANKS, GENTS! TUESDAY NIGHT AGAIN? GOOD.. BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!

I-I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DOES IT! EVERY TIME WE PLAY HE WALKS OFF WITH A WAD OF OUR DOUGH!

AND YET... HE'S A MEMBER OF THE CLUB AND THERE'S NO REASON TO SUSPECT THAT HE... **CHEATS...**



JOHN BELFI



IT'S UNCANNY HOW HE KNOWS JUST WHEN TO STAY IN THE GAME... AND WHEN TO DROP OUT! I'VE LOOKED THE CARDS OVER A DOZEN TIMES... NOTHING I CAN SEE WRONG WITH THEM.

THEY'RE ORDINARY DECKS, I'M SURE! WHY, TONIGHT I GOT THEM FROM THE LOUNGE ATTENDANT AND I OPENED THE WRAPPER MYSELF!

GIVE ME THOSE DECKS WE USED TONIGHT. THE WIFE AND I ARE ATTENDING A LECTURE TOMORROW NIGHT.. THIS SIDNEY RADNER WHO EXPOSES CROOKED GAMBLERS. MAYBE HE CAN TELL US IF WE ARE UP AGAINST A CROOK OR A GUY WHO'S JUST A SUPERIOR CARD PLAYER!

WHAT NEXT EVENING, AFTER THE LECTURE AT TOWN HALL WAS OVER..

EXCUSE ME, MR. RADNER. I WONDER IF YOU HAVE A MOMENT TO SPARE ...

WHY CERTAINLY.. JUST AS SOON AS I FINISH PACKING MY DEMONSTRATION MATERIAL!

YOUR TALK OF GYPS OPERATING MOST LUCRATIVELY OUT OF EXCLUSIVE CLUBS AND RESORTS HITS HOME. A FEW OF US AT THE UNIVERSITY CLUB SUSPECT THAT WE ARE BEING VICTIMIZED SOMEHOW. WOULD YOU MIND CHECKING THESE CARDS FOR ME?

LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT THEM...





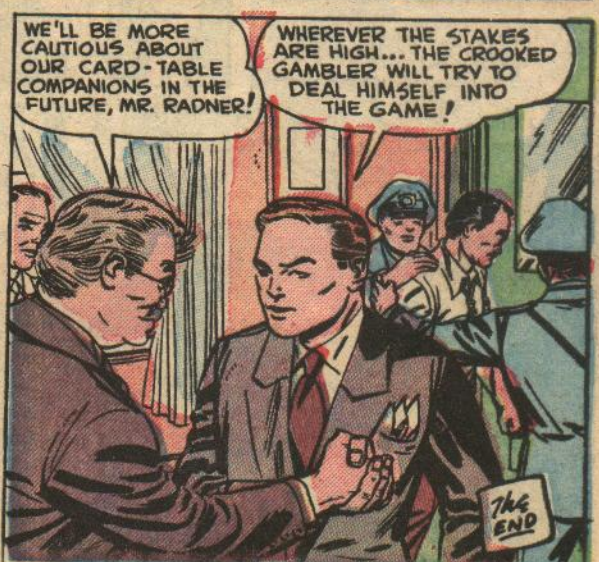
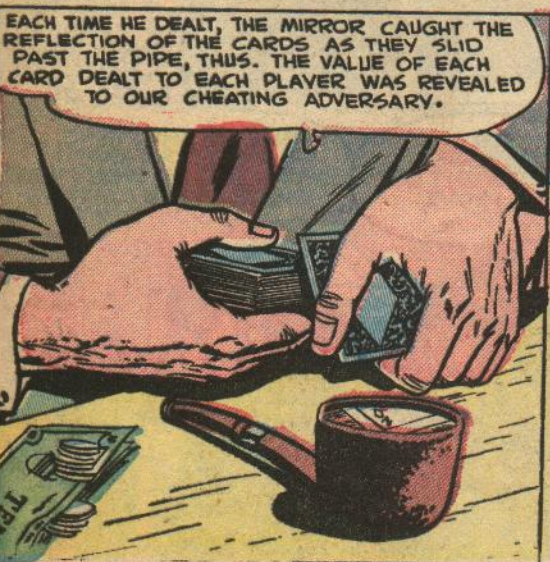
# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN ONLY BY THE HUSHED REQUEST FOR CARDS AND THE CLICK OF COINS... FINALLY...





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

**M**Y NAME IS JOHN J. O'MALLEY. I TOUR THE COUNTRY FROM COAST TO COAST, LECTURING ON THE PRACTICES OF CROOKED GAMBLERS. IT WAS DURING ONE OF THESE SHOWS, BEFORE A WESTERN BOYS' CLUB THAT I HELPED UNCOVER A...

## SWINDLE ON THE MIDWAY



C'MON, FOLKS, STEP UP AND TEST YOUR STRENGTH! HEY YOU... TARZAN! PROVE TO THE LITTLE LADY THAT THOSE MUSCLES AREN'T MADE OF CARDBOARD!

I..I THINK HE MEANS YOU, DALE. ALL THE PEOPLE ARE SNICKERING.



T-THOSE GYPS HE TALKED ABOUT... MAYBE I'LL FEEL FOR ONE LIKE IT! I.. I THINK I'D BETTER TALK TO MR. O'MALLEY AFTER HIS LECTURE IS OVER...

ONE OF OUR BOYS IS EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO ASK A QUESTION, MR. O'MALLEY. THIS IS DALE BENDIX, OUR CLUB PRESIDENT...

SUPPOSE YOU TELL ME WHAT'S TROUBLING YOU, DALE.



**Y**ESTERDAY, AFTER FOOTBALL PRACTICE, I DROVE OVER TO THE CARNIVAL WITH MY GIRL. I GUESS MAYBE I WAS DOING A LITTLE BRAGGING...

YOU'RE WONDERFUL, DALE! THE STRONGEST BOY IN THE WHOLE STATE, I'LL BET!



YOU PANTYWAIST KIDS HAVEN'T GOT THE NERVE TO TRY...

GIVE ME THAT THING, WISE GUY! ONE GOOD SWING AND I'LL KNOCK YOUR WHOLE CHEESY CONCESSION DOWN!



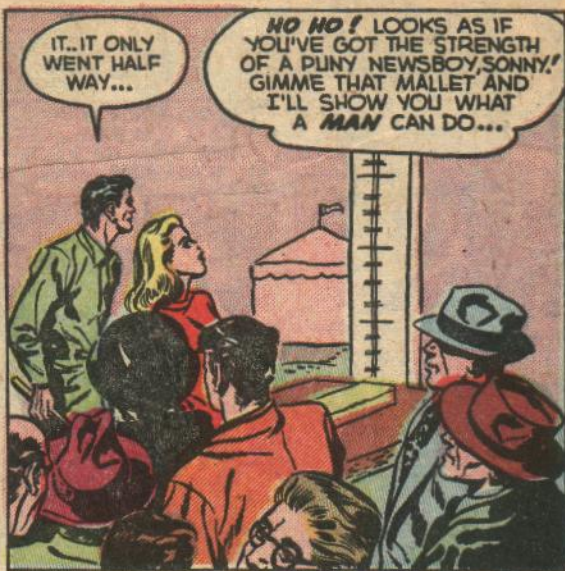


# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION



FAIR  
SHOT

CRACK



IT..IT ONLY  
WENT HALF  
WAY...

NO NO! LOOKS AS IF  
YOU'VE GOT THE STRENGTH  
OF A PUNY NEWSBOY, SONNY!  
GIMME THAT Mallet AND  
I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT  
A MAN CAN DO...



...WITH  
JUST ONE  
HAND!



HA HA! YOU'D  
BETTER GO HOME  
AND GROW SOME  
MORE...

CLANK

I BET I  
CAN DO IT  
TOO! GIVE  
ME THAT  
Mallet, I'LL  
SHOW YOU  
UP!



CARE TO PUT SOME MONEY  
WHERE YOUR MOUTH IS,  
SONNY? I'LL SWING WITH ONE  
ARM...AND BEAT YOU EVERY  
TIME! HOW'S  
ABOUT A DOLLAR  
A GAME?

Y-YOU'RE ON,  
WISE GUY!  
IT..IT'S A  
B-BET...

VERY  
POOR



FOR THE NEXT HOUR  
OUR CONTEST CON-  
TINUED, WITH THE BETS  
GETTING LARGER AS I  
GREW MORE DESPERATE.  
THEN...

THAT'S ALL I  
HAVE, MISTER..  
THE LAST OF MY  
FIFTY DOLLARS! I  
STILL DON'T KNOW  
WHY I  
COULDN'T...

COME BACK SOME-  
TIME WITH MORE DOUGH!  
IT'S A PLEASURE TO  
SHOW UP YOU  
SCHOOL-  
BOY  
HEROES!



COULD YOU TAKE ME TO THIS  
CARNIVAL, DAVE? SOUNDS AS  
IF YOU'VE BEEN TAKEN IN BY  
ONE OF THE  
OLDEST CARNEY  
RACKETS...

SURE  
THING,  
INSPECTOR!

INSPECTOR  
DAVE

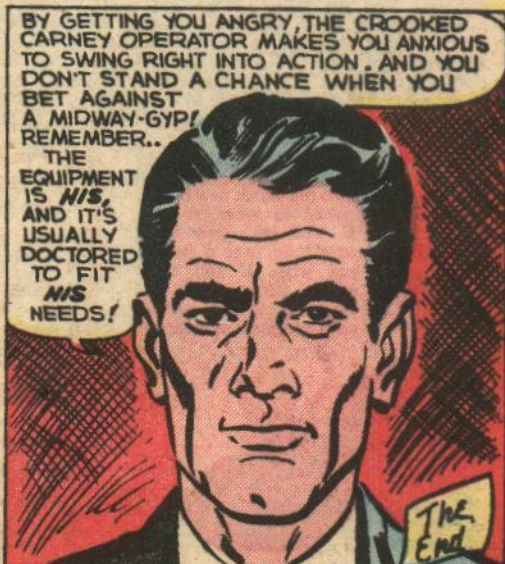


# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION





# RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

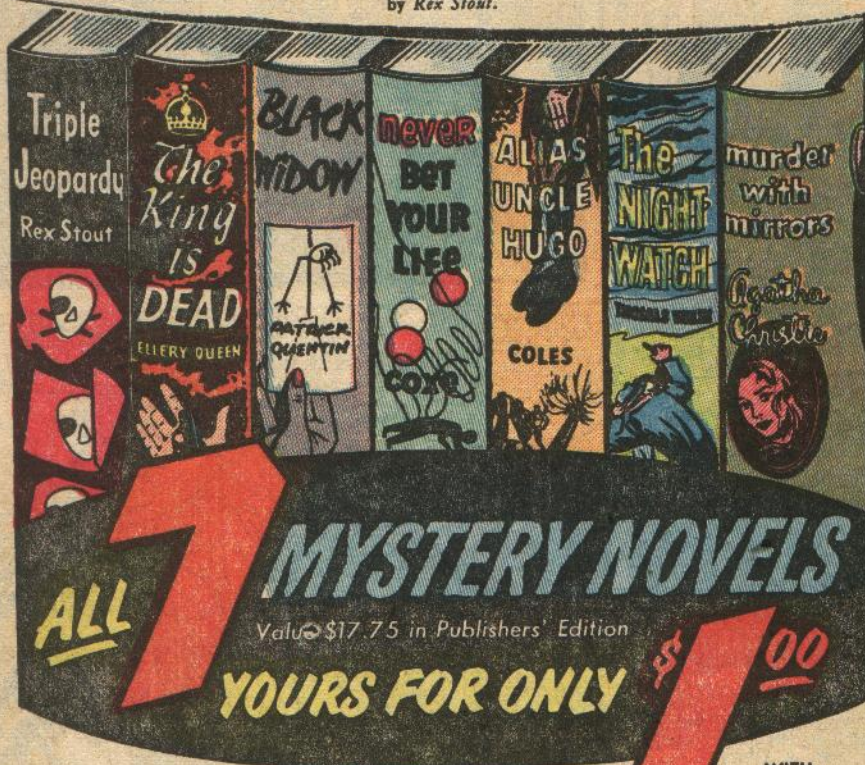




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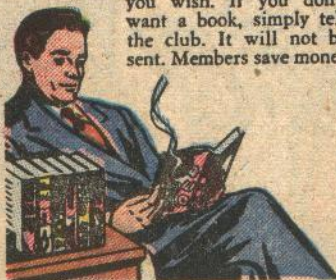
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TESTS PROVE  
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FOR A TELEVISION BANK!



**LIGHTS UP THE INSTANT YOU DROP COIN!** Just insert a penny, nickel, dime or quarter into the slot on top. In a split second your spectacular Television Bank lights up—in a big, BIG way! **BIGGEST ATTRACTION EVER!** Everyone will want to see this amazing new Television Bank. Your friends, relatives and neighbors can't resist putting in coins to see this show!

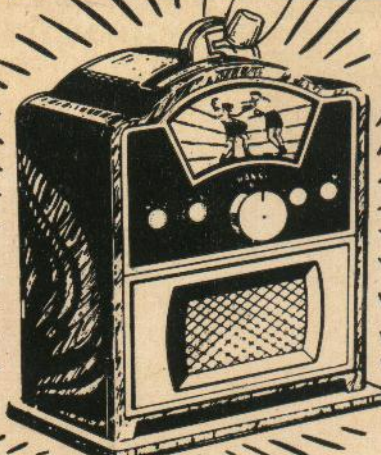
**TURN OF KNOB SHOWS NEXT EXCITING PICTURE!** After you've looked your admiring fill at one picture, just turn center knob for next thrill-packed "show." Light goes out automatically as new picture appears. To light new picture, bank another coin. SIX exciting pictures—a fight, a hilarious cartoon, a tense rodeo scene, a swell figure skater, a dramatic dance team and a circus clown with his trick dog!

**PUTS YOU "IN THE MONEY" FAST** Your savings pile up PLENTY FAST with this marvelous new Television Bank! Everyone wants to see all six pictures—your savings grow and grow by leaps and bounds! • Rich-looking mahogany finish with four simulated dials and speaker grille. 4 1/4" x 4" and ruggedly constructed. Will give you years of fun and big savings!

SEAGEE CO., Dept. CC5  
2 Allen Street, New York 2, N.Y.

**LOTS OF FUN AND MONEY!**  
WITH THIS

**TELEVISION BANK**



**LIGHTS UP!**  
LIKE BIGGEST, COSTLIEST  
TELEVISION SETS!

- SHOWS BRILLIANT PICTURES IN FULL COLOR!
- HITS EVERY TELEVISION HIGH FIGHTS AND ALLS
- THRILLS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS POP-EYED!
- AND MAKES YOUR SAVINGS MOUNT UP FAST!
- ALL STEEL CONSTRUCTION

**ONLY \$1.98**

COMPLETE WITH BATTERY AND BULB

**GUARANTEED TO DELIGHT YOU!** Bank comes complete with bulb, battery and strong key for opening and emptying your wealth of savings.

**BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL NEW TELEVISION BANK! SEND NO MONEY! ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

**SEAGEE CO.**  
Dept. CC5  
2 Allen Street,  
New York 2, N.Y.

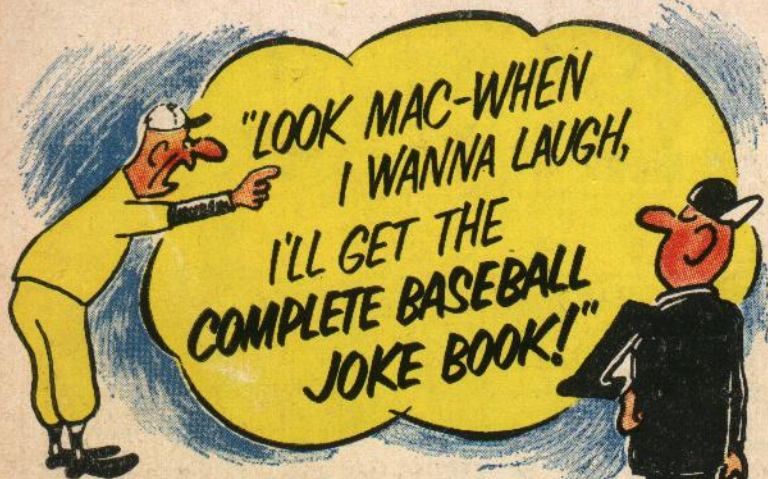
☐ Please rush me my TELEVISION BANK. I agree to pay postman \$1.98 plus few cents postage with understanding that if I am not delighted I may return bank in 5 days for full refund of purchase price

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Plainly)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I enclose \$2.00. You pay postage. Same money back guarantee





AND YOU'LL LAUGH TOO—WHEN YOU READ THIS FUNNIEST COLLECTION OF BASEBALL GAGS AND STORIES EVER WRITTEN... IN LAFFED ON BASE — THE COMPLETE BASEBALL JOKE BOOK.

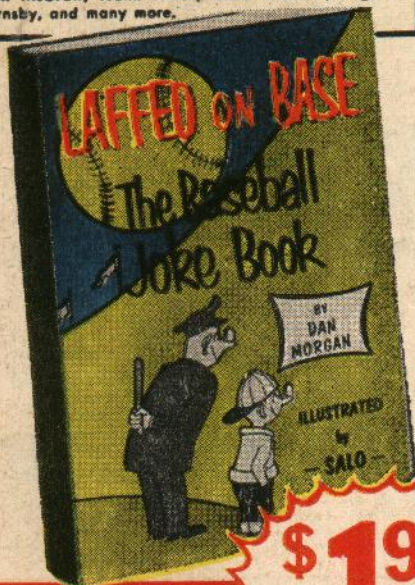
Here's a riotous selection of dugout capers that's a "hit" in any league ("hot stove" or not). Daffy stories of real ballplayers and their experiences on and off the diamond, with umpires, managers and their buddies.

#### CASH IN ON THIS AMAZING DOUBLE PLAY!

Surprise your friends with your increased knowledge of the game and at the same time chuckle to the zany antics of these wonderful "screwballs."

#### Read About the Wild, Crazy-Antics of These and Other of Your Favorite Ballplayers!

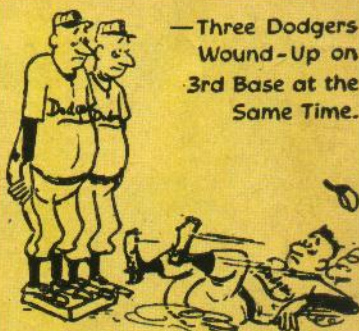
Babe Ruth, Allie Reynolds, Lefty Gomez, Leo Durocher, Sam Maglie, Bobby Thomson, Dixie Walker, Yogi Berra, Dixie Dean, Al Schacht, Frenchy Bordagaray, Babe Herman, Dazzy Vance, Dick Bartell, Bobo Newsom, John McGraw, Frank Frisch, Rube Waddell, Rogers Hornsby, and many more.



**\$1.98**

BEAUTIFULLY CLOTH BOUND  
PERFECT GIFT IDEA

#### DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TIME WHEN...



#### OR WHEN...



—Babe Herman Got Conked on the Head Chasing a Fly Ball?

#### OR WHEN...



—Casey Stengel Tipped his Cap at the Plate and a Bird Flew Out?

#### DON'T GET CAUGHT OFF BASE!

Mail the coupon NOW, for your copy of the Complete Baseball Joke Book. But hurry because "it's a steal"... at only \$1.98!

**FIRST TRY  
10 DAYS**

## SEND NO MONEY

**STRAVON PUBLISHERS, Dept. M264**  
113 West 57th Street, N. Y. 19, N. Y.

I want to learn about the funny side of baseball. Rush my copy of The Complete BASEBALL JOKE BOOK. If not completely satisfied I may return the book for a full refund.

- ☐ Enclosed is \$1.98 (Stravon pays postage)  
☐ Send C.O.D. I'll pay postman only \$1.98 plus a few cents postage charges.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

NO C.O.D. TO CANADA OR FOREIGN COUNTRIES  
SEND INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER